Proprietary to the United Press International 1988

April 27, 1988, Wednesday, AM cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Illinois

LENGTH: 1274 words

HEADLINE: Committee rejects smoking restriction measure

DATELINE: SPRINGFIELD, Ill.

KEYWORD: Legis

BODY:
Legislation limiting smoking in public places and government buildings was rejected Wednesday by the House Executive Committee.

The proposed Illinois Clean Indoor Air Act would have banned smoking in indoor places such as restaurants, offices, hospitals, state and local government buildings and other places used by the public except in designated smoking areas. Hotel rooms, bowling alleys and bars were excluded from the restrictions.

Rep. Robert Terzich, D-Chicago, sponsor of the bill (H4195), said recent studies have shown that exposure to tobacco smoke is a health hazard to non-smokers, who should be protected.

''We need to protect their rights not only from the annoyance of smoking, but from the very real health dangers tied to it,'' Terzich said. ''Illinois is only one of eight state that have not passed similar legislation. We need to catch up with the rest of the nation.''

The bill fell one vote short of being sent to the full House for consideration on a 9-6 vote, and Terzich blamed the proposal's defeat on the strength of the tobacco lobby. The bill needed 10 votes to move to the House floor.

''Today's vote simply goes to show you what a $33 billion business can do with a piece of legislation,'' Terzich said. ''Public opinion eventually is going to have this bill passed.''

Harry Kelley, a lobbyist for the tobacco industry, told the committee the state should not force businesses to curtail smoking, but instead should allow business to establish their own smoking policies.

''We believe that each Illinois businessman should have his own right and choice to run his business. If he wants to make the whole restaurant or his whole office no smoking, I don't have a problem with that,'' Kelley said. ''I don't want to see statewide restrictions on this. I don't think it's necessary.''

Terzich, who is chairman of the Executive Committee, could call the bill for another vote in the committee, but he said he instead plans to ask the full House to discharge the bill from the committee and consider the measure. SCHOOL SMOKING BAN

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee rejected a bill (H3996) requiring school boards to ban all smoking at public grade and high schools. Supporters of the bill say smoking should not be allowed at schools to set an example for students, but opponents of the bill argued that smoking bans are already in place for students under 18 and that school employees should *have the right to choose whether to smoke.*

2071964629

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/hnym0004